

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/769,534

Examiner

Terry L. Englund

Applicant(s)

AKIYOSHI, HIDEO

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt (Aug 4, 2004) and Interview (Aug 17, 2004).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4, 6, 10-11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 (now renumbered 1-8, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 August 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 08172004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800 Date 08172004

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the applicant's representative Sam Huang (Reg. No. 48,430) on Aug 17, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6, line 3: changed "for" to --from--;

line 5: changed "rest" to --reset--;

line 8: changed "power-reset" to --power-on reset--;

line 10: changed "rest" to --reset--;

Claim 11, line 10: changed "said" to --a--; changed "signals" to --signal--;

Claim 16: line 5: changed "a external" to --an external--;

line 9: changed "resets" to --reset--;

line 10: changed "generators" to --generator--;

line 13: changed first occurrence of "signal" to --signals--; and

Claim 20, line 11: changed "said" to --a--.

The changes to claim 6 improve word flow, correct typos, ensure consistent labeling within the claim, and/or make a change to minimize possible confusion. The last line of claim 11 was amended since the (understood single – e.g. see POR in the applicant's Figs. 1, and 3-5) main power-on reset signal had not been previously identified within this independent claim.

Art Unit: 2816

Claim 16 had changes made for reasons similar to those made in claim 6. For example, the plural term "generators" on claim 16's line 10 was amended to correspond to the singular "generator" cited on line 7, and the first occurrence of the singular "signal" on line 13 was changed to clearly relate to the "plurality of sub power-on reset signals" cited on lines 2-3. Since the main power-on reset signal had not been previously identified within independent claim 20, the claim's last line was amended to minimize possible confusion.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Aug 4, 2004 was reviewed and considered with the following results:

The cancellation of claims 1, 7-9, and 21 rendered their respective objection(s) and/or rejection(s) moot.

Amended claims 6, and 11 overcame their respective objections, which have been withdrawn.

Also, since claim 16 is now identified with "(Previously Presented)", its objection has also been withdrawn. [Note: In the previous amendment (submitted Feb 4, 2004), the claim had been clearly amended, but was only identified as "(Original)."]

After carefully reconsidering and reviewing all of the active claims, various oversights by the examiner were noted. These oversights (e.g. with respect to a particular word, and/or phrasing) had been inadvertently overlooked because the word/phrasing was clearly understood when the claim language had been previously considered. The Examiner's Amendment described above addresses/corrects those oversights. It is noted that none of the changes affect the scope of their respective claim.

There is no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the semiconductor integrated circuit, with its specific combination of sub reset signal generator(s), reset terminal, main reset signal generator, pulse generators, and/or composite circuit as recited within independent apparatus claims 4, 6, 10, 14, 16, and 18, or the method of initializing a semiconductor integrated circuit by generating sub power-on reset signals, generating pulses, and synthesizing the pulses are recited within independent method claims 11 and 20. More specifically, none of the reference(s) clearly shows/discloses: 1) a generated main power-on reset signal with at least one rectangular pulse (i.e. understood to relate to a pulse which has both leading and trailing edges; e.g. see POR in the applicant's Fig. 3) with respect to pulses from a plurality of pulse generators as recited within claims 4 and 6; 2) a generated main power-on reset signal with respect to pulses, wherein at least one of the pulses is rectangular (e.g. see PLSH and PLSL in the applicant's Fig. 3), as recited within claims 10 and 11; 3) generating a respective pulse corresponding to: a sub power-on reset signal and the external power-on reset signal as recited within claims 4 and 14; at least one of said sub power-on reset signals and the external power-on reset signal as recited within claims 6 and 16; or the sub power-on reset signals as recited within claim 11; 4) generating a main power-on reset signal having pulses corresponding to each of the sub power-on reset signals as recited within claim 18; and 5) generating pulses corresponding to the sub power-on reset signals, wherein the pulses are not overlapping, as recited within claim 20. Since there is no strong motivation to modify or combine any prior art

Art Unit: 2816

reference(s) to ensure any one of the above specific limitations is met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 4, 6, 10-11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 are allowed, and have been renumbered as claims 1-8, respectively for printing purposes. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 12-13, 15, 17, 19, and 21.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

THE

Terry L. Englund

17 August 2004